

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	M. Czerwinski et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MSFT121091
Application No.:	10/679,796	Art Unit:	2179 / Confirmation No: 3699
Filed:	October 6, 2003	Examiner:	A. Nicholas
Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS IN A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 22, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on September 21, 2006. The Examiner states in the Office Action that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: A. Species of Figures 2A-5; B. Species of Figure 6; and C. Species of Figure 9. The Office Action requires an election of species or invention to be examined and identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

In response to the restriction requirement issued in this application, applicants provisionally elect the species associated with Figures 2A-5, namely, Claims 1-18, 48-63, and 84-87 with traverse. For the following reasons, applicants believe that the Group I claims are generic to the other species claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone conference regarding this election requirement. As outlined below, applicants suggest a mapping of the non-elected species to the following dependent claims. The characterizations of the claims are only meant to aid prosecution and should not be construed as limiting. The characterizations are as follows:

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GROUP I:

- Figures 2A & 2B illustrate the grouping of multiple control tiles - Claims 1, 12, 15, 48, 57, 58, 59, 61, 84.
- Figure 3 is a block diagram of the GUI illustrating the manipulation of control tiles and control tile groups utilizing drag and drop functionality - Claims 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 17, 49, 50, 51, 60, 85, 86.
- Figure 4 shows that the group control tile can include one or more group controls - Claim 5, 6, 52, 53.
- Figure 5 shows the collapsing of a control tile group - Claims 7, 8, 9, 54, 87
- Figures 2A-5 - Claim 18, 63.

GROUP II:

- Figure 6 is a projection of a preview of the graphical windows corresponding to the control tiles included within the control tile group - Claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 88.

GROUP III:

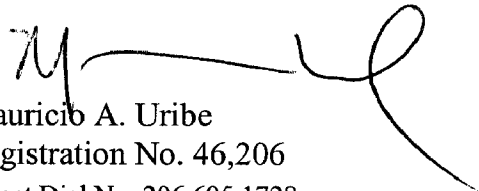
- Figure 9 is a timeline - Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 70, 71, 72, 89, and 90.

All the non-elected species in Groups II and III relate to dependent claims from Group I. Because of their dependent nature, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 48, and 84 would be generic to the non-elected species namely, Claims 19-24, 64-72, and 88-90. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the species election in the current Office Action.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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